

# T O R R A N C E

*Press Release*

*Police Department*

## **Grand Theft Arrest (Pigeon Drop)**

**DR# 130043443**

**July 30, 2013**



**Arthur Howard  
59-years-old**



**Antionette Armstrong  
53-years-old**



**Cassandra Green  
49-years-old**

Torrance Police Detectives arrested three adults on July 25, 2013, stemming from a found money, "Pigeon Drop" theft scam that originated in front of the 99 Cent Store at 1800 block of 182 St in the City of Torrance.

Arthur Howard, 59 years of Westminster, Antionette Armstrong, 53 years of Seattle, Washington and Cassandra Green, 49 years of Burien, Washington, were all taken into custody without incident in the City of Hawthorne, after Torrance Detectives were able to link them to a grand theft scam that occurred on July 19, 2013, which duped a 67-year-old victim out of over \$34,000 in cash and jewelry. All three suspects were initially charged with felony grand theft as well as elder abuse and conspiracy.

The three suspects would commonly befriend a stranger in a public place and advise them that they have received a lucrative inheritance and in order to receive the money they needed to make a sizable donation to two anonymous individuals. The suspects asked for "good faith" money up front prior to the inheritance transaction and when they receive cash from the victim they leave the area immediately.

Detectives believe these suspects are responsible for several similar incidents in the area over the past five years.

This crime is being investigated under the command and direction of Captain Bernard Anderson of the Special Operations Bureau. Any person with additional information on these suspects is encouraged to contact the Torrance Police Department Detective Division at (310) 618-5571.

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